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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Rothbury,

Morpeth.

Interim Report for the year 1939.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions from the Minister of Health I have to present a short interim report for 1939 confining my remarks to (1) any matter arising from or connected with the war, (2) outbreaks of infectious disease, (3) measures for maternity and child welfare, and (4) any exceptional administrative measure taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

To take these points seriatim: -

(1) With the willing co-operation of a large number of voluntary helpers, the reception of some 600 children from North Shields was carried out smoothly & speedily. In most cases the children settled down in their new environment quickly and soon became acclimatised. Their health was generally good, and those who remained to the end of the year showed marked physical improvement. A.R.P. The various sections of the Air Raid Precautions scheme were more fully developed after the outbreak of w ar, and in this connection the thanks of the whole district are due to the Controller (Mr. Clarkson) for his unceasing and often uphill work.

(2) Infectious Diseases. There were 99 cases reported, including 40 cases of Chicken Pox, which is no longer notifiable in this district. Apart from this disease there was nothing in the nature of an epidemic. During the last 4 months of the year 25 cases of Infectious

Disease were notified which proves that there was no increase in the incidence of these cases due to evacuation.

(3) The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Cottage Hospital holds a weekly session, with an increasing attendeance of mothers & children.

(4) The only exceptional measure recommended by me during the year was an application to the Minister of Health to cancel the notification of Chicken Pox in this district, for reasons which I stated. The application was immediately granted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A.S. Hedley.